Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Healthy children are the most important resource in the great state of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) is totally preventable, yet it is the leading cause of mental retardation in South Dakota, the United States, and all of western civilization; and,

Whereas, FASD affects 1 in 100 live births or as many as 40,000 infants per year nationwide, and an estimated 8,000 individuals in South Dakota are suspected of having FASD; and,

Whereas, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder is an umbrella term describing the range of effects such as physical, mental, behavioral, and learning disabilities with possible lifelong implications that can occur in an individual whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy; and,

Whereas, Economists estimate that each individual with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder will cost the U.S. taxpayer nearly $1-2 million in his or her lifetime; and,

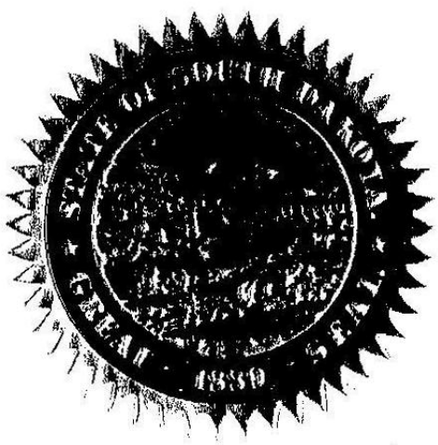
Whereas, Of pregnant women in South Dakota, 22.1 percent report drinking alcohol during their first trimester; and,

Whereas, People around the world will be observing International FASD Day on September 9, 2009, in order that on the 9th day of the 9th month of the year, the world will remember that, during the 9 months of pregnancy, a woman should abstain from alcohol:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 9, 2009, as

FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

in South Dakota, in order to promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol, to increase compassion for those individuals so affected, to minimize further effects, and to promote healthier communities across South Dakota in the future.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State